

Milestone reached in Utah Capitol renovations

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Posted: 10:31 AM- Renovation work on the Utah Capitol has reached a milestone -- installation of 256 seismic isolators.

Installed beneath the 90-year-old stone and marble building, the isolators let the facility move independently of the ground during an earthquake.

Jerod Johnson of Reaveley Engineers says that will greatly reduce the seismic impact a quake would have on the building.

Seismic retrofitting has also included strengthening and stiffening the structure.

The state's Capitol Preservation board says the renovation project is on time and on budget. Some \$186 million was allotted for the isolator portion of the project. With furniture and fixtures, the total renovation budget is \$212 million.

Construction is set for a finish in early 2008 -- just in time for the next session legislative session in January.